

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.  
1895.

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# REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

BEING AN

Account of the Sanitary Condition

WITH

Tabulated Statements of the Sickness and Mortality  
of the District.

RALPH YOUNG, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.



TO THE

*Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee*

OF THE

*Urban District Council of Royton.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1895. The division into five wards having been carried into effect during the previous year, the distribution and localization of disease, as well as the mortality therefrom, is more accurately estimated, and the rough map which I have appended to my Report will shew at a glance where the different infectious diseases have been most prevalent.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the general Death Rate of the District is not excessive, being 22·3 per 1,000 of the present estimated population. The mortality and sickness in each ward I now tabulate for the first time. There has been only one uncertified death during the year.

In the words of the last Report, Scarlet Fever continues almost endemic, but it has mostly been mild in character, and the mortality comparatively trifling.

Smallpox still prevails but does not increase, and in the treatment of this disease the Smallpox Hospital, at Chadderton, has been made use of.

Several cases of Enteric Fever or Typhoid have been notified, and arrangements have been completed with the Sanitary Committee of the Oldham Corporation for the reception of Fever Cases from this District into the Hospital at Westhulme. The work of their respective departments has been efficiently carried out by your Inspectors, extracts from whose Reports are appended.

The Nightsoil is removed at night by the workmen of the Scavenging Department, and conveyed to the land of adjacent farms. This practice, though an unfortunate necessity, is not devoid of danger, and, wherever it can be adopted, the water-carriage system is strongly to be recommended. Other refuse is taken to the Destructor, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the work of these departments is satisfactory.

We have still, however, a large area of unpaved streets, which cannot but affect the general health of the District. With the exception of a few outlying places, such as Royley Clough, Summit, and Bull Cote, which are supplied from neighbouring wells or springs, we continue to get our water supply from the Oldham Corporation. At Bull Cote the water is very impure and quite unfit for drinking purposes.

With regard to the erection of new property, all plans are submitted for the approval of the Sanitary and Surveyors Committee, and new drains are connected with the main sewerage system under the personal supervision of your Surveyor. About two-thirds of the Sewerage of the whole District has been finished, and additional powers are at present being applied for to borrow capital in order to complete the remainder.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Health Department,  
Town Hall, Royton,  
January, 1896.*



URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

REPORT, 1895.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The following Table compiled from the Census Returns, and the Statement issued by the District Council in 1894, with the addition of the Estimated Population of the different Wards, forms the basis of the statistical details :

NAME OF WARD.	Area in Acres.	Population. Census, 1891.	Estimated Population, 1895.
Thornham ... ..	740	Not divided in 1891.	807
Dogford ... ..	280		3240
Haggate ... ..	304		3361
Dryclough ... ..	368		2459
Heyside ... ..	420		4133
TOTALS ... ..	2112	13395	14000

The births registered during the year amount to 408 (199 males, 209 females), Births. the rate per 1,000 being 29·1, as compared with 381, and a rate of 27·6 per 1,000 in 1894.

The deaths numbered 285 (145 males, 140 females), and if we include those Deaths. in neighbouring Hospitals, of patients belonging to Royton, 313, representing a mortality of 22·3 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 225, and a rate of 16·3 per 1,000 in 1894.

The number of deaths registered under one year has been 84, that is at the average rate of 205·8 per 1,000 total registered births in the District. Several districts in the County had a higher infant mortality than this in the previous year's statistics, but it is still considerably above the mean proportion for England generally for five previous years. Of these 84 deaths, more than one-third were the result of Premature Birth and Convulsions alone. Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants and children under 1 and under 5 years of age, from 1889 to 1895 inclusive, is shewn in the following Table.

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1694	1895
Under 1 year ... ..	63	66	66	62	75	50	84
1 year and under 5 ...	43	42	47	42	43	31	45

Compared with previous years.

Mortality at  
specified  
ages.

The general mortality from all causes at *specified ages*, including deaths in Public Institutions of persons belonging to Royton, is shewn in the Table A appended.

Mortality in  
specified  
diseases.

Classified according to different diseases, the deaths in the year under report have been as follows :

Rheumatic Fever ... ..	2	<div>This Summary includes—  Registered Deaths ... .. 285 Deaths in Oldham Workhouse 23     ,,     ,,   Infirmery ... 4     ,,     Smallpox Hospital 1  TOTAL ... .. 313</div>
Pyemia ... ..	2	
Pneumonia ... ..	32	
Phthisis ... ..	33	
Bronchitis ... ..	33	
Heart Disease ... ..	30	
Injuries ... ..	5	
Scrofulous Disease ... ..	6	
Cancer ... ..	6	
Diseases of Nervous System ...	44	
Convulsions ... ..	18	
Diseases of Digestive System...	15	
Urinary Diseases ... ..	4	
Childbirth ... ..	3	
Premature Birth ... ..	16	
Old Age and all other Diseases	32	
Infectious Diseases .. ..	32	
TOTAL ... ..	313	

In localities.

In the different wards of the District the mortality, from all classes of disease, is as follows :

NAME OF WARD.	Deaths.	Per 1,000.
Thornham ... ..	20	24·7
Dogford ... ..	76	23·4
Haggate ... ..	70	16·9
Dryclough ... ..	49	19·9
Heyside ... ..	70	20·8

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES INQUIRY.

The cases of Infectious Diseases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1894 and the year 1895, and the number occurring in each ward in the latter year, is seen in the following Table :

	1894	1895	NAME OF WARD.				
			Thornham.	Dogford.	Heyside.	Dryclough.	Haggate.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	45	125	14	34	25	18	34
Smallpox... ..	15	13	...	3	4	2	4
Enteric Fever ... ..	2	13	...	7	1	2	3
Diphtheria ... ..	20	12	3	3	...	1	5
Erysipelas ... ..	16	13	...	5	...	3	5
Puerperal Fever ...	2	4	...	...	2	1	1
Chicken Pox ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	101	180	17	52	32	27	52

From this it will be seen that the central wards, Dogford and Haggate, which are the most populous and most crowded, have suffered most.

The general prevalence of Infectious Disease in the District, in comparison with that of previous years, is as follows :

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	3	46	15	13
Scarlet Fever ... ..	44	19	37	30	45	125
Diphtheria... ..	1	4	5	8	20	12
Enteric Fever... ..	10	11	5	6	2	13
Continued Fever ...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	2	...	2	4
Erysipelas ... ..	2	8	10	12	16	13
Chicken Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...
	58	43	63	102	101	180

Prevalence of,  
compared with  
previous years

The cases notified in their respective Wards and at *specified ages* are shewn in Table B appended.

The mortality from Infectious and Contagious Diseases during 1895, compared with that of previous years, is as follows :



Mortality compared with previous years.

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	4	2	...
Measles ... ..	7	15	11	9	1	1*
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	1	1	3	...	2
Diphtheria ... ..	2	2	...	5	12	7
Enteric Fever... ..	1	1	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever... ..	...	3	2	...	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2
Whooping Cough ...	2	6	20	1	1	12
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	6*
	17	28	34	22	19	32

\* These diseases are not included in the list for notification.

Mortality per 1,000.

The death rate per 1,000 from Infectious Diseases generally is thus shewn to be 2·2. In 1894 it was 1·3, and in 1893 it was 1·7.

Distribution of, and at specified ages.

The mortality from these diseases at specified ages, and in the different wards, is shewn in Table A appended.

SPECIAL DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever which has come to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, has been 125. This seems a large number as compared with previous years.

The apparent severity, however, of the epidemic is much modified if the undermentioned particulars are noted :

In 30 households were 2 cases each	...	60
2 „ „ 3 „	...	6
1 „ „ 4 „	...	4
55 „ „ 1 „	...	55
Total	...	125

It is certain, <sup>more</sup> however, the type of the disease was of a very mild character, as only two deaths occurred from it during the whole year.

Period and distribution of.

It was most prevalent during the months from April to August inclusive. The distribution of the disease is shewn in the annexed map, from which it appears that the cases were scattered pretty evenly over the most populous parts of the District, viz.: the Central, Heyside, and Haggate neighbourhoods. Owing to the opening of a new Board School in Heyside Ward, there has, no doubt, been a kind of re-arrangement of pupils amongst the schools during the year, and it is just a question whether this fact may have had anything to do with the diffusion of the



Fever. Active preventive measures were taken, not only in the way of fumigation and disinfection, but the plan was adopted of having special circulars printed and sent to the principals of schools prohibiting the attendance of pupils from infectious houses until notices of freedom from infection had been served.

Preventive Measures.

Special enquiries were made as regards milk supply, &c., but no constant or special causal features were found.

Of the 13 cases of Typhoid Fever reported, 3 were found in one household. The remainder were single cases. With the exception of a case at Thorp, the others all occurred within a very short radius of the junction of Park Lane with Rochdale Road. Special enquiries were made, and in the worst cases the houses were found to have been built on made ground, through which water had percolated, and from which were emanations into the houses from wide vents in badly floored cellars. In two instances removal to Hospital was agreed to and effected. One of the cases occurred in a lodging-house, the insanitary condition of which has been reported to the Committee. In all cases special pans were supplied to receive excreta, and these were collected regularly and the contents destroyed.

Typhoid Fever.

Distribution.

Preventive Measures.

About midsummer the disease made its appearance at Higginshaw, where two cases occurred in one house. It continued at intervals during the remainder of the year. In 4 households were two cases each, and in 5 households were single cases.— Total, 13 cases. Smallpox has been constantly prevalent more or less during the last four years. Vaccination is quite unobserved in the District.

Smallpox. Period.

Details.

It has been mostly confined to the Heyside and Haggate Wards, and the Rochdale Road part of Dogford Ward; two cases, however, were found at the extreme southern boundary of Dryclough Ward. With the exception of two cases which were slight and doubtful, and a third in which the isolation was very good, they were all removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Cinder Hill. All bedding and infected materials were immediately sent to the disinfecting apparatus, and the houses fumigated,

Distribution.

Preventive Measures.

13 notifications of Erysipelas were received during the year. One Royton patient died in the Oldham Workhouse. The disease was almost entirely confined to the central and most populous parts of the District, and with regard to time was pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. No constant factor other than of a personal or individual character was discovered.

Erysipelas. Number, Period and Distribution.

Under the heading of Diphtheria I have for convenience included two or three cases which have been notified as Croup or Membranous Laryngitis. Of these, 12 cases have been brought to the notice of the Officer of Health, with 7 deaths. In 1894 were 12 deaths from similar causes. The cases were all treated at their own houses.

Diphtheria, number and character.

Of the 4 cases of Puerperal Fever reported, two occurred at Heyside, the others in the central district. One died. With regard to one case the hygienic surroundings and nursing arrangements were so unfavourable that removal was recommended, but could not be carried out as the Fever Hospital at Oldham was not available at the time, and there are no Isolation Wards at the Workhouse. The patient was therefore removed to the house of a relative with better sanitary conditions.

Puerperal Fever, distribution and measures adopted.

Speaking generally, it is evident from the foregoing facts, and from the great increase in the number of Infectious Diseases during the past twelve months, that further and careful enquiry is necessary in regard to individual cases.

Systematic  
Inspections.

The work of the Department under the supervision of your Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. W. Hall, has been efficiently done and regularly attended to as shewn in the following information extracted from his Report.

Slaughter-  
houses.

There are 11 licensed slaughter-houses which have been systematically visited and found in satisfactory condition.

Conviction.

There was one conviction for slaughtering on unlicensed premises at Higginshaw, where also unwholesome meat was found and destroyed.

Triperies and  
Food  
Inspection.

The Tripe-boiling places have been visited, and one of these owing to dilapidations in the building and insanitary surroundings generally, is mentioned as unfit for the purpose.

The meat and food exposed for sale has been found generally satisfactory.

Dairies, &c.

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been examined, but the work would be more satisfactorily carried out if placed entirely in the hands of the Veterinary Officer, and suitable regulations made for the purpose.

Nuisance  
Inspection.

The Nuisance Inspector's Report shews a large amount of very good work, which is summarised as follows.

Details.

Reported to the Committee and action taken—

Defective or blocked drainage	...	...	...	60
Dirty closets, yards, and passage	...	...	...	21
Defective ashpits, cesspools, &c.	..	...	...	24
Defective spouting, gutters, &c.	...	...	...	16
Damp houses	...	...	...	14
Dirty houses	...	...	...	8
Chimney fires, &c., &c.	...	...	...	31
Total	..	...	...	174

Nuisance  
removal.

19 cesspools have been abolished and sanitary pans substituted. 28 notices have been served, a number written to or seen personally with the result that most of the cases have been remedied.

Bakehouses.

There are 46 places where baking of a more or less public character is done, and they are mostly clean and in a satisfactory condition.

General Work.

Your Inspector has promptly attended to the removal of infectious cases to hospital, and to the disinfection and fumigation of houses by carbolic acid and sulphur.

Mills, Cutting  
Shops, &c.

The Officer of Health together with the Inspector has personally visited the various mills, bleach works, cutting shops, and the results are as follows.

At present there are 46 different places where persons are employed, embracing spinning mills, cutting shops, bleach works, &c., and these employ 2,759 males, and 1,777 females, in all 4,536 people.

At one mill the drainage of the receptacle passage or yard is very bad and ought to be remedied. Details.

At one or two other places the cleaning of the closets is not done regularly and the attention of the proper authorities was drawn to this fact.

In another instance the closets are in an unsatisfactory state, only being flushed at intervals. These should not be allowed to stand as at present, but should be flushed when used, and the required alteration could be made at very little expense or inconvenience.

The owner of one of the workshops has been advised to abolish a cesspool at the rear of his property, and to substitute sanitary pans.

Speaking generally however, the mills and workshops are in a fairly satisfactory condition as regards their sanitary arrangements.

RALPH YOUNG, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Royton, January 25th, 1896,*







(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the ROYTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of the Statistics :	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.							NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREAT- MENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.	
	Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1895. (c)			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.		Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
									Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.			
Thornham Ward ... ..	Not divided in 1891.	807	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dogford Ward ... ..		3240	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	...	8	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heyside Ward ... ..		3361	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	3	26	...	...	6	...	5	...	...	...
Dryclough Ward ... ..		2459	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	1	11	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	4
Haggate Ward ... ..		4133	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	3	14	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
TOTALS ... ..	13395	14000	408	{ Under 5... 5 upwards	2	53	11	1	...	...	...	2	...
					11	72	...	12	4	13	8	2	...

RALPH YOUNG,  
Medical Officer of Health.

